GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5946
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
Category-wise Enrolment of Students
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, female and transgender students enrolled in schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, categories-wise; and

(b) the details of initiatives taken by the Government for the greater socio-economic accessibility and inclusion of children from the aforementioned categories in educational institutions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a): As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), 2015-16, the percentage of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and female students under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) at the elementary level of schooling is 19.78%, 10.35% & 48.36% respectively. Data in respect of transgender students is not captured through UDISE.

(b): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of SSA provides assistance to State Governments and Union Territories to ensure free and compulsory quality elementary education for all children. Bridging gender and social category gaps in elementary education is one of the major goals of SSA. Consequently, SSA attempts to reach out to girls and children belonging to SC, ST, Muslims and other marginalised communities. SSA has provided 2.04 lakh primary and 1.59 lakh upper primary schools for ensuring universal provisioning of schooling facilities.

Under the SSA, the districts with high concentration of population of SCs, STs and Muslims have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs). The criteria for identifying the SFDs in case of SCs and STs is a population of 25% and above, while for Muslims, it is 20% and above population. Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas, and areas with high concentration of SC, ST and minority population. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled. As per Unified District Information System for Education 2015-16, the number of total children enrolled at elementary level has increased from 15.1 crores in 1998-99 to 19.67 crore at present.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has prepared a Digital Gender Atlas for Advancing Girls' Education in India. The tool has been developed to identify low performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalised groups such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and Muslim minorities, on specific gender related education indicators.

The MHRD has written to all the States and UTs to take appropriate measures to enable the education and inclusion of children from Transgender category in educational institutes.

Under SSA, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels and transportation/escort facility for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools cannot be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. Special training is also provided to all such children who are school dropouts and long absentees and they are enrolled in "back to school" camps.

Additionally, other strategies adopted under SSA such as strengthening school infrastructure, improving pupil-teacher ratios, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms for eligible category of children and mid-day meal in schools have proved to be useful in increasing the enrolment of children in elementary schools.

As per Section 29(2)(f) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, medium of instruction shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue. In the last few years several States have developed textbooks in tribal languages.

Under Swachh Vidyalaya initiative, 4,17,796 toilets were constructed in 2,61,400 elementary and secondary government schools in a period of one year from 15.8.2014 to 15.8.2015, thus ensuring that every government school has separate functional toilets for girls and boys.

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